Equipment & Materials Processing

DuPont 10th Anniversary

DuPont marked its 10th year of successful operations at the Electronic Materials DuPont Dongguan Ltd. (EMDD) facility in Dongguan, China. DuPont was the first multinational company to establish a production facility for thick film microcircuit materials in China. DuPont hosted a special event to mark the occasion with key customers and employees.

Web: www.dupont.com

Tegal Settlement

Tegal's subsidiary, Sputtered Films Inc. (SFI) has agreed to terms settling its trade secrets case against Sergey Mishin, Advanced Modular Sputtering (AMS), Agilent Technologies Inc., Avago Technologies U.S. Inc., Avago Technologies Wireless (U.S.A) Manufacturing, Inc. and other defendants providing a payment of approximately $13m, net of fees and certain expenses associated with the litigation.

Web: www.tegal.com

Arsine Boost

In response to increased customer demand, Matheson Tri-Gas Inc., has added significant capacity and production enhancement to its hydride plant in New Johnsonville, TN, USA. The company is clearly in bullish mood and keen to leverage its assets to secure a bigger market share. With a two-phase plan, which began in 2005, it has already added over 30% more production capacity for high purity arsine.

Web: www.mathesontrigas.com

Bandwidth Adds Veeco MOCVD for eVCSELs

Bandwidth Semiconductor LLC has purchased multiple Veeco Instruments TurboDisc E450 As/P MOCVD Systems.

Piero Sferlazzo, VP, GM of Veeco's MOCVD Operations, commented, "Veeco is pleased to support Bandwidth in its expansion. Our production-proven TurboDisc E450 offers the industry's highest throughput and produces the highest volume of premium devices." Bandwidth will be producing III/V and II/VI wafers for a customer who makes eVCSELs as a light source for projection display applications, including rear-projection consumer television.

Mr. Edward D. Gagnon, GM of Bandwidth Semiconductor, LLC, said, "The addition of Veeco's TurboDisc MOCVD systems is critical as we scale up our existing MOCVD and related processing facilities to satisfy our customer's production demands. After reviewing competitive systems, it was clear the high production throughput of Veeco's MOCVD systems will allow us to meet our customer's production requirements."

Web: www.veeco.com

Bede Ships BedeMetrix-F with ScribeView for SiGe

Bede X-ray Metrology has shipped another BedeMetrix-F system with ScribeView to a 'leading US semiconductor manufacturing consortium'. The system for in-line, high volume semiconductor manufacturing will be used to control strain and relaxation in SiGe on product wafer metrology pads for their 45 nm process.

Jim Polasik, Chief Operating Officer of Bede X-ray Metrology, said, "I am delighted that we have been chosen by a leading semiconductor manufacturing consortium for their cutting edge metrology needs. The BedeMetrix-F with ScribeView offers advanced strained silicon process control for 65 nm technology nodes and below. ScribeView uses the patented Microsource X-ray generator and the latest in X-ray optics technology, and is capable of measurements on test pads and scribe lines down to 60 microns wide on product wafers, thereby eliminating the need for monitor wafers."

Frank Hochstenbach, Global Director of Sales and Marketing said, "In-line process control of strained silicon is becoming mandatory as the technology nodes are shrinking. This consortium will benefit from the only production proven system available for in-line measurement of strained epilayer composition, thickness, and relaxation using high resolution XRD and X-ray reflectivity techniques. There are over 35 tools in production fabs worldwide for this application, and this number will grow as strained silicon is adopted into the production process."

Web: www.bede.co.uk

Applied Adds Brooks Software

On November 06, Applied Materials Inc., announced that it is to purchase the assets of Brooks Software, a division of Brooks Automation, Inc., for $125m in cash. Brooks Software's products complement Applied Materials' existing software applications and are expected to enable Applied to offer customers a comprehensive CIM solution for optimizing fab operations.

"Factory management software is essential to the efficient running of today's advanced manufacturing facilities," said Manfred Kerschbaum, senior VP and GM of Applied Global Services. "The combination of both companies' software applications and Applied's strong service capabilities will allow us to create a powerful, pre-integrated CIM solution that can be rapidly deployed and continuously supported across the entire lifecycle of a factory. This can be a very attractive alternative to the costly, highly-customized solutions currently available to customers."

After the close of this transaction, the Brooks Software business and employees will be integrated within the Applied Global Services organization. Applied's current factory control software portfolio includes its FAB300®, NeXus and WorkStream products, which have been successfully developed with industry-leading customers and are being used in fabs around the world.

The acquisition of Brooks Software will bring several new, world-class applications to Applied, including the scheduling-dispatching, material control system and advanced process control segments of the CIM environment, which are all critical to fab operational efficiency.

Web: www.appliedmaterials.com/